

The African American Military Experience Conference Agenda

November 13-16, 2000

Monday, November 13, 2000

12:00 - 8:00 pm. Registration Open
 7:00 - 9:00 Presidential Reception hosted by Dr. Benjamin Payton, President of Tuskegee University.
 Kellogg Executive Conference Center Ballroom

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

6:00 - 7:30 Breakfast
 7:30 - 5:00 Registration/Information Desk Open

MORNING SESSION

8:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks -- Conference Center Auditorium
 Posting of Colors

"The Price of Freedom"

Opening Keynote Speaker: **Brigadier General Clara Adams-Edner**, (ret.), Chief of Army Nurses Corps; Commanding General, U.S. Army Fort Belvoir, VA; Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Military District of Washington, Fort Belvoir, VA until retirement in 1993.

This session will focus on a historical overview of the "Negro Question" -- What role will African-Americans assume in the military and in civilian participation within America's war effort? After overview, participants will head to breakout sessions that focus more specifically on varying aspects of this topic.

Moderator: Dr. Charles Thompson, Historian

9:45 - 10:45 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1	2	3	4
"Amongst My Best Men: African-Americans and the War of 1812" Gerard T. Altoff, Chief Ranger & Historian, Perry's Victory & IPM	"First to Serve" Arnold Schofield, Park Ranger Interpretation, Fort Scott National Historic Site	"Five Brave men: The Gift of the African Union Cemetery in Delaware City, Delaware" David Orr, Park Ranger, Interpretation, Valley Forge National Historic Park	"The 1st Rhode Island Regiment: The Black Regiment and the Defense of Philadelphia" Joseph W. Becton, Supervisory Park Ranger & Historian, Independence National Historic Site

10:45-11:15 Break
 11:15-12:00 Panel Discussion on Concurrent Sessions -- Conference Center Auditorium
 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:45 Conference Center Auditorium

"Backseat Citizens--- Frontline Soldiers"

Guest Speaker: **Lt. Colonel Michael Lanning** (ret.), Author of "The African-American Soldier, From Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell" and "Defenders of Liberty: African Americans in the Revolutionary War" and others, Phoenix, AZ.

This session will direct its attention towards the military engagements and the outcome for the continuation of what some historians have referred to as the "Negro Experiment".

Moderator: Lt. Col. RJ Lewis, USAF (ret.), Fixed Base Operator, Moton Field

3:00 - 4:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1	2	3	4
"Can Our Slaves Save Us? West Indian Planter and Confederate Planters Debate Arming Slaves" Philip D. Dillard, Assistant Professor of History, James Madison University	"Proclaiming Their Story: The Contributions of Rank and File African American Soldiers" Steve Smith, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, University of South Carolina	"The 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the Pay Crisis, and the 'Lincoln Despotism'" Donald Yacovone, Massachusetts Historical Society	"African American Troops in Far West Kentucky during the Civil War: Recruitment and Services of the Fourth U.S. Heavy Artillery Colored" William H. Mulligan, Jr., Associate Professor of History, Director of Forrest C. Pogue Public History Institute, Murray State University

3:45 - 4:10 Break
 4:15 - 5:00 Panel Discussion on Concurrent Sessions -- Conference Center Auditorium
 6:00 - 8:00 Dinner

Cookout served in the Atrium and on the patio. Guest Speaker: **Mr. Bennie J. McRae, Jr.**, Historian and Researcher for Premier web site "Lest We Forget" on African American History. www.coax.net/people/lwf

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Wednesday, November 15, 2000

6:00 – 7:30 Breakfast

MORNING SESSION

8:00 Conference Center Auditorium

“The Pursuit of Equality and Peace”

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Walter Hill**, Senior Archivist and Subject Area Specialist (African Americans in federal records), National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD

This session will focus on the resentment of and opposition to the African-American military presence and experience.

Moderators: Mrs. Mildred Carter, First African-American woman in the south to receive pilots license and Colonel Herbert Carter(ret.), Original Tuskegee Airman

9:15 – 10:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1	2	3	4	5
“Tuskegee Institute, Moton Field and the Training of the Tuskegee Airmen” Christine Trebellas, Historian, National Park Service	“Gullah/Geechee Legacy of America’s Military” Marquetta L. Goodwine, Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition	Rocking the Boat: African Women and Men on Board Hospital Ship USS Red Rover, 1861-1862” Steven Louis Roca, Historic Research	“The History and Membership of the Capital City Guards” Ron Myers, History Student, University of Alabama	“Equalite in World War I: Black Soldiers and the French Army” Dr. Carl H. Marbury, Residential Scholar Historian, Tuskegee Institute NHS Prof. Frank Toland, History Professor, Tuskegee University

10:00 – 11:00

Break

11:00–12:00

Panel Discussion on Concurrent Sessions – Conference Center Auditorium

12:10

Lunch - Box Lunches

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:30 – 4:00

Tours/Re-enactment Groups/Movie/Exhibits

Your Choice: Experience the history on the Tuskegee University Campus. Guided tours of the campus may be arranged. Ask the hotel upon check-in for details or take a self guided tour of the Carver Museum and The Oaks, home of Booker T. Washington; Chappie James Museum and Historic Tuskegee University Campus Districts; Tuskegee Trading Company

Re-enactment Groups

54th Massachusetts Regiment

372nd Infantry, 93rd Division, AEF

Louisiana Native Guard

1:30

Movie in Auditorium

"NIGHTFIGHTERS" The Tuskegee Airmen story as told from the British prospective.

EVENING SESSION

All-Era Military Banquet/Ball

(Participants may dress appropriate to any Military War Era they choose or Business Dress Attire)

5:00 – 7:00

Military Ball Reception sponsored by Kellogg Conference Center -- Cash Bar

Posting of Colors – National Anthem – Flag Ceremony

7:00 – 7:15

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies

Blessing and Meal Served

8:10 – 9:00

Keynote address: **Major General Lucius Theus, USAF** (ret.), First African America combat support officer to be promoted to Brigadier General, members of the famed African-American World War II fighter group known as the Tuskegee Airman to be so honored. Enshrined in the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame and inducted into the United States Enlisted Men's Hall of Fame.

9:00 – 11:00

Band Begins Dance

Cash Bar will be open during dance.

Thursday, November 16, 2000

6:00 – 7:30

Breakfast

8:00

Closing Ceremony - Conference Center Auditorium -- Guest Speakers: **National Park Service Director Robert Stanton**

Wrap-up of events and challenge for the future

Retiring of Colors